

Bedtime Stories For The Little Ones

UNCLE WIGGILY AND PETTIE'S PEANUTS.

By HOWARD GARIS.

ONCE upon a time, when Uncle Wiggily was a little boy, he was very mischievous. He was always getting into mischief, and he was always getting into trouble. He was always getting into mischief, and he was always getting into trouble. He was always getting into mischief, and he was always getting into trouble.

"I guess I'd better peek out and see who this is before I go any farther. It might be the bad Pipewash or the worse Shushetuck."

"What's that?"

"Dear me! What a funny talk! thought the bunny rabbit gentleman. 'Shushetuck'! What an odd word—'shushetuck'! I wonder what it means? The Pipewash was the Shushetuck never talked like that!"

Then he heard another voice answer and say:

"In that peanut. Want some, Jackie?"

"Of course, I do, Pettie," was the answer, and, then, after hearing the answer, Uncle Wiggily wasn't afraid any more. Peeking around the corner of the mulberry bush the bunny rabbit saw Jackie and Pettie there. Now, the two little puppy dog boys and the funny work Jackie had said was really "four" words. "What are you eating?"

And Jackie had told—it was peanuts he was eating.

Still, having hidden behind the laurel bush, Uncle Wiggily listened to the cracking of the peanut shells and the chewing of the two puppy dog boys, who didn't know the rabbit gentleman was anywhere near them.

"There, all the peanuts are gone!" said Pettie, after a while. "Nothing but the shells left."

"I know how we can have a lot of fun with them," barked Jackie.

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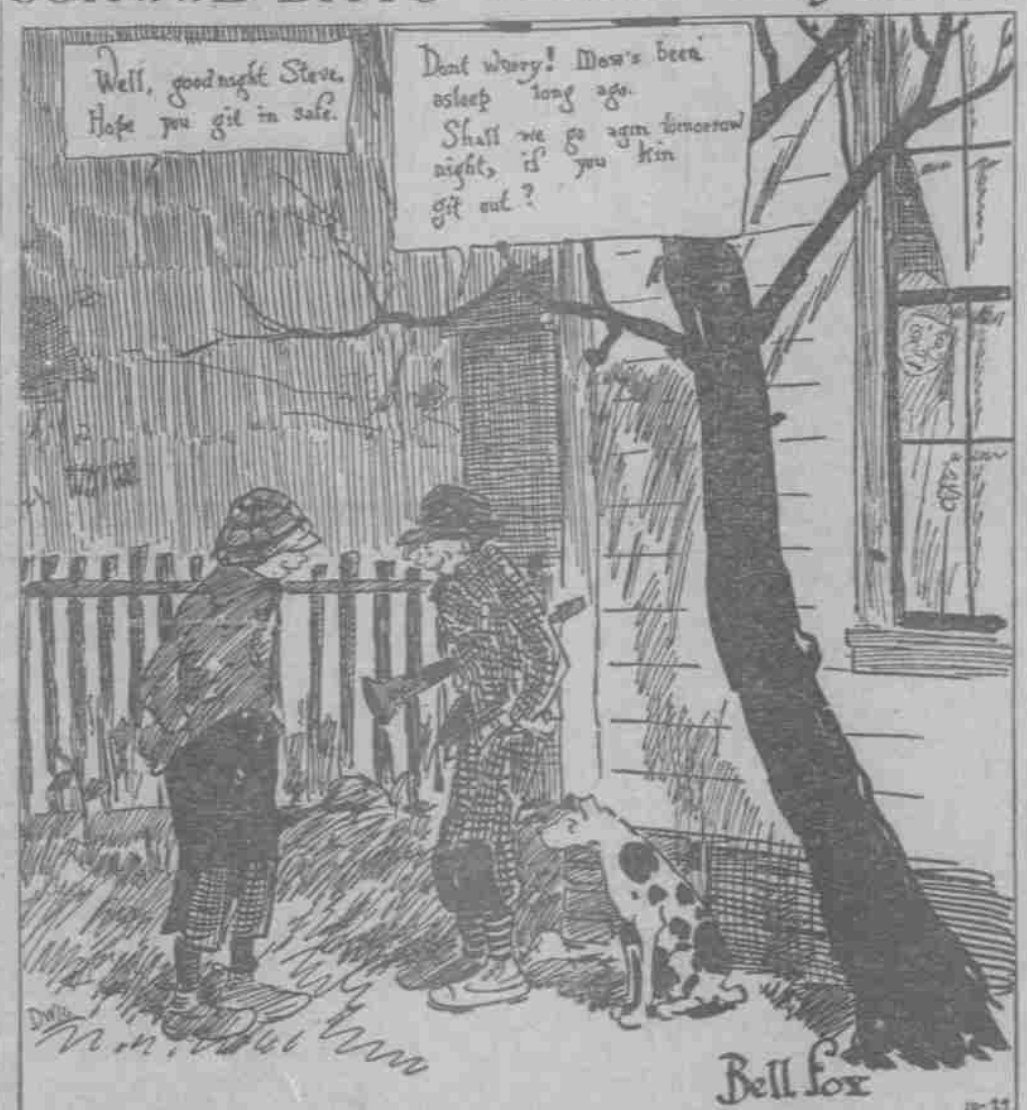
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SCHOOL DAYS

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By DWIG



Bell Fox

Well, goodnight Steve. Hope you get in safe.

Don't worry! Mom's been asleep long ago. Shall we go again tomorrow night, if you like?

"We can take the two halves of the shells, stick them together with some sticky gum from the pine tree, and the peanuts will look as if they had never been opened," said Jackie with a low, laughing growl. "We can stick a lot of empty peanut shells together, put them in a bag, and if we meet anybody, we can make believe give them a bag of peanuts."

So he and Jackie took the empty peanut shells, put them together again with sticky gum from the pine tree, and there they had a bag full of what seemed to be good peanuts, but which were, really, only empty shells.

"I guess it's time for me to come out now," said Uncle Wiggily, who, hidden behind the evergreen tree, had heard everything that went on. So he made a sort of coughing noise, and with a twinkling of his pink nose he hopped along, making believe he had just woken up. Out of one of his eyes he could see Pettie looking at Jackie.

"Hello, Uncle Wiggily!" called Jackie, and he held up the bag of empty peanut shells.

"Hello!" answered the bunny rabbit gentleman. "I see you have been eating peanuts," he went on for some of the broken shells that had not been stuck together, were still scattered about.

"Yes, answered Pettie, winking at Jackie. "We had some peanuts. Here is a bag for you."

He was careful not to say "bag of peanuts." He just said "bag."

Of course Jackie and Pettie would not have played a mean trick on Uncle Wiggily. This was going to be only a funny one.

The rabbit gentleman took the bag, looked at it, and making believe he didn't know what was in it, then he sat down on a flat stump and said: "Jackie and Pettie, you know Jane went me to the store after a loaf of bread. But I forgot it. Now I'll sit here until you run back and get it for me. Bring it to me here. Meanwhile I'll be eating some peanuts."

"Yes, we'll get the bread for you," barked Jackie. And he whistled

in his brother. "Oh, won't he be surprised when he finds out empty shells! Oh! Oh!"

Off through the woods to the broad green ran Jackie and Pettie, while Uncle Wiggily sat on the flat stump. The doggie boys hurried back, for they wanted to see how surprised Mr. Longears would be when he opened the empty peanut shells.

"There he sits!" said Pettie to Jackie, as he came within sight of the rabbit gentleman, who was sitting on the stump with the bag in his paw.

"What! Back so soon, boy?" asked Uncle Wiggily. "I guess I must have fallen asleep. I haven't yet eaten any of the peanuts you so kindly gave me. I'll start now. Are you sure you don't want any?"

"Oh, we had some!" barked Jackie.

Uncle Wiggily opened the bag and took a peanut in his paw. He cracked it and out came a nice little piece of peppermint candy.

"Dear me!" exclaimed the bunny rabbit gentleman as he popped the candy into his mouth. "These are very funny peanuts, but I'll say there's no nut!" He opened another nut and this time out rolled a bit of peppermint candy. Uncle Wiggily ate that, and opened a third peanut. Out came a gum drop.

"Why, these are the best peanuts I ever ate," barked the bunny, twinkling his pink nose. "Some one had taken out all the peanuts. But I happened to have some candy in my pocket. So I filled the empty shells with candy, gum-drops, and the like of that. Will you have some?"

"I guess we will!" barked Jackie.

"This joke is on us, Pettie!" said Jackie. "You gave me a bag of empty shells. I was sure you didn't want some!"

"Are these—those—did we give you those peanuts?" stammered Pettie.

"Well, you gave me a bag of empty shells," said the bunny, twinkling his pink nose. "Some one had taken out all the peanuts. But I happened to have some candy in my pocket. So I filled the empty shells with candy, gum-drops, and the like of that. Will you have some?"

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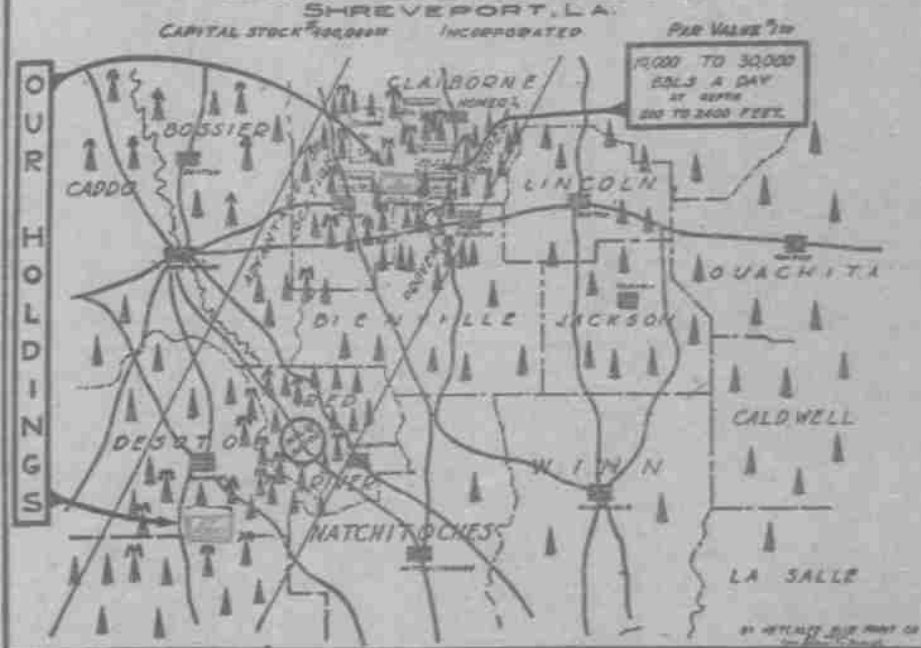
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